

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/751,527

Applicant(s)

ZERPHY ET AL.

Examiner

Nitin Patel

Art Unit

2629

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/6/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 8/2/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.



### **REASON FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. Claims 1-26 is allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

Safavi (US 20040123501) shows a dynamic messaging sign that includes a plurality of display panels arranged side by side, each of the display panels includes a rigid front panel having an array of aperture holes formed and a plurality of pixel modules arranged rearward of the front panel in alignment with the aperture holes for selectively generating indicators visible through the aperture holes. A sheet lens located between the planar central portion of the front panel and the pixel modules extending over the aperture holes.

Vaitekunas (U.S. Patent No. 7,098,869) teaches a business method for billboard advertising comprising the steps of: A) providing a passive content display unit; B) providing a display controller, wherein said display controller is adapted to receive, store, and provide dynamic-content for said passive content display unit; C) providing a server, wherein said server is adapted to send dynamic-content to said display controller; and D) displaying dynamic-content on said passive content display unit : E) providing a plurality of passive content display units, each having a display controller; F) identifying each said passive content display units with at least one characteristic; and G) displaying dynamic-content on each of said plurality of content display units, wherein said dynamic-content is different for each said characteristic: H) providing a clock indicating a time; I) storing a plurality of dynamic-contents on said display controller; and

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J) changing the dynamic-content displayed on one said content display unit from a first stored dynamic-content to a second stored dynamic-content at a first time.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest an interconnect unit for use in conjunction with a sign display panel, wherein the sign display panel comprises a controller connected to a set of display units by the interconnect unit, the interconnect unit comprising: a central processing unit; a set of display unit connection ports, wherein each of the set of display unit connection ports is configured for interfacing with a subset of the set of display units; a sensor corresponding to each of the set of display unit connection ports for indicating whether the subset of the set of display units is connected to the each display unit connection port; and memory for storing interconnect software configured for execution by the central processing unit, wherein the software comprises instructions for determining a configuration of the set of display units as claimed in claim 1.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest a method for automatically configuring a sign display panel comprising a set of display units arranged in a matrix of a number of rows and a number of columns, the method comprising: connecting the set of display units to an interconnect unit, wherein each row of the set of display units is connected to a corresponding connection port of the interconnect unit; detecting each row at the connection port; determining the number of rows of the set of display units based on the detected rows; determining a total number of the set of display units; and dividing the total number of the set of display units by the number of rows to determine the number of columns as claimed in claim 16.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest a method for automatically configuring a sign display panel comprising a set of display units arranged in a set of rows, wherein each row comprises a subset of the set of display units, the method comprising: connecting the set of display units to an interconnect unit, wherein each row of the set of display units is connected to a corresponding connection port of the interconnect unit; detecting each row at the connection port; and determining a total number of the subset of display units for each detected row as claimed in claim 21.

The prior art fails to teach or suggest a system for automatically configuring a sign display panel comprising a set of display units arranged in a set of rows, wherein each row comprises a subset of the set of display units, the system comprising: means for connecting each row of the set of display units to an interconnect unit; means for detecting each row connected to the interconnect unit; and means for determining a configuration of the set of display units, wherein the configuration comprises a number of rows connected to the interconnect unit and a number of the subset of display units for each row as claimed in claim 26.

3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nitin Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7677. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin H. Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nitin Patel  
Examiner  
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